

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 7477

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SUBJECT: INDO-CANADIAN DISCUSSIONS ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION

REF: A) NEW DELHI 7472

B) NEW DELHI 6043

1. CANADIAN HICOM OFFICER CONFIRMS GENERAL COMMENTS BY DAE CHAIRMAN SETHNA IN REF A ON PRESENT STATE OF INDO-CANADIAN DISCUSSIONS ON RENEWED SUPPLY OF CANADIAN EQUIPMENT FOR RAPP II. THERE WERE DISCUSSIONS IN JANAICA BETWEEN TRUDEAU AND MRS. GANDHI, AND BETWEEN INDIAN FONSEC KEWAL SINGH AND EITHER IVAN HEAD OR DUPRIX. THE CANADIANS HERE TELL US FRANKLY THAT KEWAL SINGH WAS BADLY BRIEFED AND DID NOT REALIZE THIS UNTIL HE RETURNED TO NEW DELHI. THE INDIANS WANT THE CANADIANS TO COME UP WITH NEW DRAFT LANGUAGE THAT WILL DEAL WITH ALL PROBLEMS EXCEPT THE PARTICULARLY VEXED QUESTION OF WHETHER SAFEGUARDS ON THE RAPP REACTORS WILL CONTINUE EVEN IF CANADA DOES NOT PROVIDE FURTHER EQUIPMENT OR AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE, AFTER RENEWING SUPPLIES, CUTS THESE OFF AGAIN. THE CANADIANS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THIS IS ONE-SIDED AND PLACES OBLIGATIONS ON THE
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INDIANS WITHOUT PARALLEL OBLIGATIONS ON CANADA, BUT--ALTHOUGH

THEY HAVEN'T PUT IT QUITE THIS BLUNTLY TO THE GOI--THE CANADIAN POSITION IS THEY HAVE THE GOODS AND THE INDIANS WANT THEM AND WILL HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE. CANADIAN HICOM HERE TELLS US THAT THERE ARE INFLUENTIAL ELEMENTS IN CANADIAN GOVT WHICH DO NOT WANT TO RENEW SUPPLIES TO INDIA IN ANY EVENT. THEY ARE PREPARED TO WASH OUT SAFEGUARDS ON EXISTING CANADIAN SUPPLIES EQUIPMENT WHEN THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT EXPIRES NEXT YEAR AND SIMPLY TERMINATE ALL CANADIAN COOPERATION.

2. CANADIANS SAY THEY HAVE BEEN SURPRISED, BUT PLEASED, TO FIND THAT INDIANS HAVE HAD GREAT DIFFICULTY IN FINDING SUBSTITUTES FOR CANADIAN SUPPLIES, BOTH THROUGH INDIGENOUS PRODUCTION AND THIRD-COUNTRY SUPPLY. THE INVENTORY FOR THE RAPP REACTORS IS 50,000 PARTS AND INDIANS HAVE FOUND THAT THIS IT IS HARD TO KEEP ALL OF THESE ON STOCK OR AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL PRODUCTION.

3. CANADIANS HAVE NOT GOTTEN ANY ASSURANCES FROM GOI ON FUTURE NUCLEAR TESTING BUT HICOM CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT INDIANS ARE FULLY AWARE THAT THERE IS NO POINT IN EVEN DISCUSSING RENEWAL OF SUPPLIES IF A NUCLEAR TEST IS TO BE HELD BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF DELIVERY OF RAPP II EQUIPMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, GIVEN THE PROBLEM OF FUTURE DELIVERY OF SPARES AND THE CANADIAN POSITION THAT THESE MIGHT WELL BE CUT OFF IN THE EVENT OF FURTHER INDIAN TESTING AT ANY TIME IN THE FUTURE, THE CANADIANS ARE IN EFFECT ASKING THE INDIANS TO ACCEPT A PERMANENT MORATORIUM OF FURTHER TESTING.

4. ALL THIS APPEARS TO ADD WEIGHT TO SETHNA'S CONCLUSION (REF A) THAT THE CANADIANS SHOW NO SIGNS OF WEAKENING IN THEIR POSITION AND THAT INDIA WILL HAVE TO RELY ON ITS OWN INDIGENOUS PRODUCTION CAPABILITY. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT THE CANADIANS ARE DOUBTFUL THE INDIANS CAN DO IT THEMSELVES WHILE SETHNA EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE THEY CAN.
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